

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the format of the specification and identifies minor informalities. In response, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to place the application in the preferred U.S. format. Also, the informalities noted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action have been corrected by the amendments to the specification. To facilitate entry of the amendments, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also, enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Furthermore, an Information Disclosure Statement citing the references listed on pages 2 and 3 of the specification is submitted herewith. Copies of the cited references are enclosed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references and indicate such consideration by returning an "initialed and dated" copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Further, on pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to based on the Examiner's position that the parallel swaging machine is not illustrated in the drawing figures. The Examiner also indicates that Figs. 8 and 9 should be designated by the

legend "Prior Art". Accordingly, Figs. 8 and 9 have been amended to include the required legend, thereby obviating this objection. It is submitted that the parallel swaging machine is already adequately illustrated in the drawing figures. Note that a parallel swaging machine is generally known in the art, and therefore only the relevant portions of the machine are illustrated. In particular, the parallel swaging machine is represented by clamps 32, mandrel 23, and dies 24.

37 CFR 1.83 indicates that detailed illustrations of conventional features are not necessary where such illustration is not necessary for a proper understanding of the invention. In this case, the illustrated portions of the parallel swaging machine are sufficient to provide a proper understanding of the invention. Note that all features of the machine, which are specified in the claims, are shown in the drawings. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the requirement for an illustration of the entire parallel swaging machine.

Next, in response to the objection to the claims on page 5 of the Office Action, claim 11 has been amended to correct the indicated typographical error, and the claims are presented with adequate spacing to enable the claims to be read more easily.

Further, on pages 5-7 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With regard to this matter, a telephone conversation was conducted with the Examiner on January 20, 2006. The courteous manner in which the Examiner conducted the telephone conference is sincerely appreciated. During the telephone conference, it was agreed that the objections to claims 1 and 11 would be withdrawn in view of the handwritten indication by the Examiner's Supervisor that claim 1

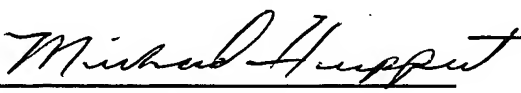
was in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as originally presented. Further, the antecedent basis issues identified by the Examiner have been corrected in the amended claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that rejection of the originally-filed claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is now clearly obviated.

It is noted with appreciation that the claims would be allowable upon overcoming the objections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As indicated above, each of the objections and rejections has been overcome, and therefore it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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